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ABSTRACT

The final report of the North Carolina Research Coordinating Unit in Occupational Education defines the major purposes of the Unit as: (1) stimulating research in occupational education, (2) identifying problems for research, (3) making data available to researchers, policy makers, and practitioners on occupational education from national, state, and local levels, (4) maintaining communication between people who are working in occupational education programs, (5) assisting in training programs on activities involved in the research-action continuum for state-level research workers, and (6) providing consultant services in state, local and area research and developmental activities. The report covers major activities in which the staff was involved, dissemination activities, including the research reports completed during the period of operation, and a staff summary. The unit will be continued in North Carolina under the name "Occupational Research Unit" under the administration of the State Department of Public Instruction. (GR)

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Joseph R. Clary, Project Director

School of Education

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The research reported herein was performed pursuant to a grant with the Office of Education, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Contractors undertaking such projects under Government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their professional judgment in the conduct of the project. Points of view or opinions stated do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Office of Education position or policy.

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SUMMARY

The North Carolina Research Coordinating Unit in Occupational Education was funded by a grant from the U. S. Office of Education and established on July 1, 1966 in the School of Education, North Carolina State University at Raleigh.

The major purposes of the Unit were defined as:

1. To stimulate research in occupational education.
2. To identify problems for research.
3. To develop a system by which national, state, and local data on occupational education may be organized and made available to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.
4. To maintain communication between people who are working in occupational education programs and research workers and encourage the development of additional mechanisms to facilitate activities along the research-action continuum.
5. To assist in conducting training programs on activities involved in the research-action continuum for state-level research workers, policymakers, administrators, program specialists, and for local and area personnel.
6. To provide consultant services in state, local and area research and developmental activities.

Activities of the staff centered around attainment of the purposes listed above. Significant progress was made in areas related to purposes 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. Less significant progress was made toward purpose 3.

Major emphases of the staff were directed toward consultant services to individuals or groups in the State Department of Public Instruction, Department of Community Colleges, local school administrative units, individual schools, technical institutes or community colleges and to individual researchers. Members of the staff conducted a research priorities study. Both formal and informal research training programs were conducted. Dissemination activities were emphasized. Efforts were made to provide communications linkages where needed. Limited research was conducted by the staff.

The staff involved itself in a number of activities of a state, regional and national nature designed to improve occupational education programs.

The Unit will be continued in North Carolina with some basic changes. It will be called the "Occupational Research Unit." It will be administratively under the Assistant Superintendent for Research, Planning, and Development in the State Department of Public Instruction. Promotions, resignations and transfers of existing personnel will necessitate a restaffing of the Unit.

PREFACE

This is the Final Report of activities of the North Carolina Research Coordinating Unit in Occupational Education for the period, July 1, 1966 through August 31, 1969.

The nature of this project does not lend itself to the usual sections or categories found in the final report of a research project, therefore the headings normally found in progress reports are substituted.

Appreciation is expressed to all those associated in any way with the Unit during its 38 months of operation under the Grant. Special thanks are due to personnel in the following agencies: School of Education, North Carolina State University at Raleigh; Division of Vocational Education, State Department of Public Instruction; Division of Occupational Education, Department of Community Colleges; School of Home Economics, University of North Carolina, Greensboro; North Carolina Employment Security Commission; Center for Occupational Education, North Carolina State University; and The Center for Vocational and Technical Education, The Ohio State University.

Appreciaion is also expressed to the State Board of Education for arranging for the continuation of the Unit beyond the Grant period.

Major Activities

1. Discussed, assisted, and/or provided consultant services for research and development projects with personnel from the following agencies:

a. Richmond Technical Institute

b. Barber-Scotia College

c. School of Education, North Carolina State University

d. Division of Vocational Education, State Department of Public Instruction

e. Division of Occupational Education, Department of Community Colleges

f. Department of Adult Education, North Carolina State University

g. Durham City Schools

h. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools

i. Center for Occupational Education, North Carolina State University

j. East Carolina State University

k. Watauga County Public Schools

l. Forsyth Technical Institute

m. Pitt Technical Institute

n. Wilkes Community College

o. Moore County Public Schools

p. Durham Technical Institute

q. Caldwell Technical Institute

r. Central Carolina Technical Institute

s. Research Committee, North Carolina Vocational Association

t. Catawba Valley Technical Institute

u. Haywood County Public Schools

v. Alamance County Public Schools

w. Lenior County Public Schools

x. Transylvania County Public Schools

y. Southwestern Technical Institute

z. College of the Albemarle

aa. Robeson Technical Institute

bb. Johnston Technical Institute

cc. Wayne Community College

dd. Sampson County Public Schools

ee. Columbus County Public Schools

ff. Southeastern Community College

2. Selected members for and activated an Advisory Council for the Research Coordinating Unit. Members were:

Mr. Roger Worthington
Supervisor of Curriculum Laboratory
Department of Community Colleges
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. A. G. Bullard, Director
Division of Vocational Education
State Department of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dr. Durwin Hanson, Professor and Head
Department of Industrial and Technical Education
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dr. Charles H. Rogers
Center for Occupational Education
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. Hugh Raper, Head
Bureau of Research
Employment Security Commission
Caswell Building
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. Anthony J. Bevacqua, Educational Director
Division of Occupational Education
Department of Community Colleges
Raleigh, North Carolina

3. The director served as a member and others on the staff participated in conferences and activities of the Southwide Research Coordinating Council in Occupational Education.

4. The Unit served as the collection agency for research reports and other documents on vocational education in North Carolina and forwarded these to the Center for Research and Leadership in Occupational Education at The Ohio State University for inclusion in the ERIC System.

5. Workshops, formal classes, and individual and small group instruction in research were conducted.

6. Personnel in the Unit served on committees of the Governor's Commission on the Study of Public Schools, which study was completed and presented to the Governor on December 3, 1968.

7. Members of the staff worked closely with the Community College Advisory Council in the development of standards and criteria for evaluating post-high school institutions in the Community College System.

8. The director assisted personnel in the Center for Occupational Education with evaluation of a project in Brevard County, Florida, entitled, "An Experimental Design for a Multi-Cultural Nongraded Area Vocational High School Associated With a Community College."

9. The Unit collected North Carolina data for "A Study of Post-Secondary Occupational Education in the South." The study was made by the Southwide Research Coordinating Council in cooperation with the Center for Occupational Education and submitted as evidence of need for the establishment of regional accreditation procedures for post-secondary occupational education programs.

10. The director of the Unit served as a member of an Ad Hoc Committee of Research Coordinating Unit Personnel in the development of "A Guide for A State Vocational-Technical Education Dissemination System."

11. The director served on a Task Force charged with drafting the new North Carolina State Plan for Vocational Education.

12. The Unit cooperated with the National Center for Educational Statistics on a study entitled, "Survey of Characteristics of Vocational Education Teachers and Students."

Problems

Few problems were encountered by the Unit in carrying out its assigned functions.

During the first year of operation, professional personnel to fully staff the Unit could not be secured. This continued to be somewhat of a problem throughout the entire period. Supporting personnel, such as graduate assistants, were difficult to employ during the last half of the grant period.

Lack of resources to fund or otherwise assist with projects in a financial way kept many potentially good projects from really becoming operational.

Significant Findings or Events

The nature of the grant and the activities of the Unit did not lend themselves to a long list of significant findings or events. From a somewhat subjective standpoint, the Unit staff did find:

1. There was and continues to be a sizeable interest in occupational education research in North Carolina.

2. Local educational agencies need and desire considerable consultive assistance in identifying problems, designing, implementing, and reporting studies.

3. There is need for funds available at the State level for funding projects within the State.

4. The Research Coordinating Unit can serve an important function in improving occupational education in the State.

Dissemination Activities

Dissemination activities of the Unit centered around the following:

1. Activities with individual researchers or project planners.

2. Small groups within an organization or local educational agency.

3. Making studies and reports available in hard copy or on microfiche.

4. Collection and submission of materials for inclusion in the ERIC system.

5. Activities with large groups or organizations such as: North Carolina Vocational Association; Association of Occupational Directors, and conferences of vocational teachers.

6. Publication of periodic newsletter: THE FLAME

Publication of state-of-the-art newsletter: BRIEF

7. Publication and dissemination of selected research reports completed in North Carolina during the period:

a. Clary, Joseph R. Attitudes of Public School Personnel Toward the Introduction to Vocations Program in North Carolina.

b. Miller, Texton R. and Pasour, Henry. Attitudinal Changes Toward Adult Education During Student Teaching.

c. Bryant, C. Douglas and Bright, Melvin C. Relevant Others of Beginning Teachers of Vocational Agriculture.

d Miller, Texton R. Teacher Perception of Principals' Views on Vocational Education.

e. Pasour, Henry A., Miller, Texton R., and Scarborough, Cayce C. An Analysis of the Student Population in Agricultural Education at North Carolina State University.

f. Johnson, Mildred B. A Wage-Earning Oriented Experimental Program in High School Home Economics.

g. Jones, Charles I. Effectiveness of Vocational Teachers.

h. Miller, Texton R. Implementing a New Concept of Supervised Practice in Vocational Agriculture.

i. Gatlin, Sammie Carol and Johnson, Mildred B. A Study of Problems Recognized by Vocational Home Economics Teachers.

j. Johnson, Mildred B., Lowe, Louise, and Wise, Barbara. Summary of Pilot Study to Determine Criteria for Selection and Preparation of Teachers, Selection of Participants, and Organization of High School Home Economics Programs With Occupational Emphasis.

k. Brown, William J., Jr. The Effect of In-Service Education and Resource Unit Components on Teacher and Student Learning.

l. NCVA Research Committee. NCVA PROFILE - A Study of the Membership of the North Carolina Vocational Association.

m. Champoux, Ellen. Materials Used With and Needed for Teaching the Slow-Learning Pupil in Home Economics.

n. Brown, William J., Jr. and Clary, Joseph R. An Evaluation of the Experimental Vocational Education Program at Independence High School.

o. Puder, William H., Brown, William J., Jr. and Clary, Joseph R. Priorities for Vocational-Technical Education Research in North Carolina.

p. Johnson, Mildred, Clary, Joseph R., and Brown, William J., Jr. Selected Factors Associated With Vocational Teacher Morale in Guilford and Johnston Counties, North Carolina.

q. Clary, Joseph R., and Brown, William J., Jr. Description of a Vocational Education Summer School Program in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Public Schools -- 1968.

r. Sumerell, Craven. A Study of the Educational and Manpower Needs of the Catawba Valley Technical Institute Impact Area.

Capital Equipment Acquisitions

Equipment for the Research Coordinating Unit was furnished by North Carolina State University and/or the North Carolina State Board of Education with the exception of those items listed below for which approval was secured for purchase with Grant funds:

1 Microfiche Reader	1 Plate Maker
1 Desk Calculator	1 Typewriter
1 Offset Duplicator	1 Puncher-Binder

This equipment will continue to be used for vocational education reserach.

Forms

None

Selected Other Activities

1. Planned certain activities jointly with institutions of higher education in the State.

2. Served on a number of State and national task forces.

3. Conducted small staff research projects as interests, time, and other resources allowed.

4. Assisted graduate students with research problems.

5. Participated actively in a number of professional organizations.

6. Assisted in the evaluation of vocational education programs in the State.

7. Assisted in the evaluation of certain ESEA funded programs having implications for vocational education.

8. Assisted in the retrieval of source data and preparatior of bibliographies for individuals and agencies engaged in occupational education research.

9. Participated in regional and national research conferences and institutes.

10. Assisted in the development of several ESEA Project proposals.

11. Developed and presented papers at State and National conferences.

Staff Summary

The following persons served on the Research Coordinating Unit staff during some period between July 1, 1966 and August 31, 1969:

Name	Title or Function	Federal	Local	Period Employed
Harry G. Beard	Director (Acting)		X	7-1-66 to 10-31-66
Joseph R. Clary	Director	X		11-1-66 to 8-31-69
William J. Brown	Ass't. Director	X	X	7-15-67 to 8-31-69
William H. Puder	Ass't. Director	X		6-1-67 to 9-30-68
Mary Elizabeth Milliken	Consultant	X		7-1-69 to 8-31-69
G. Herman Porter	Research Assoc.		X	1-1-67 to 8-31-69
Robert A. Mullen	Research Assoc.		X	11-1-66 to 8-31-69
Ellen Champoux	Research Assoc.		X	7-1-67 to 8-31-69
Walter J. Cox, Jr.	Research Assoc.		X	7-1-68 to 8-31-69
J. Bryant Kirkland	Adm. Consultant & Research Assoc.		X	7-1-66 to 10-31-69
Kathy Watson	Secretary (Temporary)			12-1-66 to 1-31-67
Brenda Perry	Secretary	X		2-1-67 to 8-31-69

Other personnel included short-time consultants, part-time secretarial he'p and graduate assistants.

The Future of the Unit

On August 7, 1969, the North Carolina State Board of Education voted unanimously to continue operation of the Unit and approved a budget for it. The Unit, however, was moved, effective September 1, 1969 to the State Department of Public Instruction. The name of the Unit has been changed to Occupational Research Unit.

With the foundation that has been built and the support pledged to the Unit by educational leaders in the State, the Unit should become an even stronger resource for improving occupational education in the future.

Certification

Joseph R. Clary
Director

Glenn E. Musser
Grants and Contracts Officer